

What is claimed is:

1. A method for improving patient compliance to a therapeutic regimen, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) storing identifiers and corresponding reminder protocols associated with the therapeutic regimen;

(b) receiving a communication of an identifier, a contact preference, and a reminder preference from a patient to receive the therapeutic regimen, thereby activating the reminder protocol associated with the therapeutic regimen;

(c) determining whether the patient corresponding to the received identifier requires a reminder of the therapeutic regimen according to the reminder protocol; and

(d) upon determining the patient corresponding to the received identifier requires a reminder of the therapeutic regimen according to the reminder protocol, reminding the patient of the therapeutic regimen in accordance with the contact preference and the reminder preference.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of reminding the patient includes sending a reminder communication to at least one of a telephone number, an electronic mail address, and a facsimile number.

3. The method according to claim 1, further including the step of authenticating the received identifier.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein said authenticating step includes the steps of forwarding the received identifier to a clearing house and receiving an approval status for the received identifier from the clearing house.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said storing step includes storing the identifiers and corresponding reminder protocols in a database.

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6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said receiving step includes receiving the identifier, the contact preference, and the reminder preference via a telephone communication.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said determining step comprises determining whether the patient has communicated compliance to the therapeutic regimen.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said reminding step comprises reminding the patient to take a medication according to a prescription, engage in a physical therapy, take a diagnostic test, take OTC medication, take a vitamin regimen, take a nutraceutical regimen, take a preventive medication, monitor a function, regulate or report a lifestyle function, or to activate or use a device.

9. A method for improving patient compliance to a therapeutic regimen, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) distributing to a patient the therapeutic regimen and an identifier associated with the therapeutic regimen;

(b) enabling the patient to:

(i) provide the identifier, a contact preference, and a reminder preference to a reminder service, thereby activating a reminder protocol associated with the therapeutic regimen;

(ii) notify the reminder service when the patient does not require a reminder of the therapeutic regimen according to the reminder protocol; and

(iii) receive a reminder of the therapeutic regimen in accordance with the contact preference and the reminder preference when the patient does not notify the reminder service according to step (b)(ii).

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10. The method according to claim 9, wherein step (b) further includes providing, to the patient, contact information for the reminder service.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said providing step includes providing one or more of a telephone number, an electronic mail address, and a facsimile number.

12. The method according to claim 10, wherein said providing step includes providing a high frequency transceiver.

13. The method according to claim 9, further including the step of authenticating the identifier.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein authenticating the identifier includes the steps of forwarding the identifier to a clearing house and receiving an approval status for the identifier from the clearing house.

15. The method according to claim 9, wherein said distributing step comprises distributing to the patient a prescription medication, a physical therapy, a diagnostic test, an OTC medication, a vitamin regimen, a nutraceutical regimen, a preventive medication, or instructions for monitoring a function, regulating or reporting a lifestyle function, or activating or using a device.

16. The method according to claim 9, wherein step (b) comprises enabling the patient to:

(i) activate a reminder protocol associated with a prescription medication;

(ii) notify the reminder service when the patient has taken the prescription medication; and

(iii) receive a reminder to take the prescription medication when the patient does not notify the reminder service according to step (b)(ii).

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17. A method for improving patient compliance to a therapeutic regimen, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an identifier for distribution to a patient in connection with the therapeutic regimen;

(b) authorizing a reminder service to:

(i) receive an identifier, a contact preference, and a reminder preference from the patient to receive the therapeutic regimen, thereby activating a reminder protocol associated with the therapeutic regimen;

(ii) determine whether the patient corresponding to the received identifier requires a reminder of the therapeutic regimen according to the reminder protocol; and

(iii) upon determining the patient corresponding to the received identifier requires a reminder of the therapeutic regimen according to the reminder protocol, remind the patient of the therapeutic regimen in accordance with the contact preference and the reminder preference.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein step (a) includes the steps of:

(i) producing the therapeutic regimen and sending product information corresponding to the therapeutic regimen to a clearing house,

(ii) receiving the identifier in connection with the therapeutic regimen from the clearing house; and

(iii) transferring the therapeutic regimen and corresponding identifier to one of a packager, a wholesaler, and a retailer.

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19. The method according to claim 17, wherein said providing step comprises providing the identifier for distribution to the patient by a pharmacy in connection with a prescription medication.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein said authorizing step comprises authorizing the reminder service to activate the reminder protocol associated with the prescription medication, determine whether the patient requires a reminder to take the prescription medication, and remind the patient to take the prescription medication upon determining the patient requires the reminder.

21. The method according to claim 17, wherein said providing step comprises providing a high frequency transceiver for distribution to the patient.

22. A method for improving patient compliance to a therapeutic regimen, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) obtaining an identifier corresponding to the therapeutic regimen;
- (b) authorizing a reminder service to activate a reminder protocol by providing an identifier, a contact preference, and a reminder preference to the reminder service;
- (c) notifying the reminder service when a reminder of the therapeutic regimen according to the reminder protocol is not required; and
- (d) receiving a reminder of the therapeutic regimen in accordance with the contact preference and the reminder preference when the reminder service is not notified according to step (c).

23. The method according to claim 22, wherein said obtaining step comprises obtaining a prescription medication, said notifying step comprises notifying the reminder service when the patient has taken the prescription medication, and said receiving step comprises receiving a reminder to take the prescription medication when the reminder service is not notified according to said notifying step.

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24. The method according to claim 22, wherein said obtaining step comprises obtaining a high frequency transmitter and said notifying step comprises activating the high frequency transmitter to notify the reminder service when the reminder service is not needed.

25. A system for improving patient compliance to a therapeutic regimen, the system comprising:

means for receiving an identifier, a contact preference, and a reminder preference from a patient to receive the therapeutic regimen;

means for storing the identifier, contact preference, and reminder preference;

means for transmitting a reminder to the patient; and

means for

determining whether the patient corresponding to the received identifier requires the reminder of the therapeutic regimen according to the reminder protocol, and

upon determining the patient corresponding to the received identifier requires the reminder of the therapeutic regimen according to the reminder protocol, activating the transmitting means to remind the patient of the therapeutic regimen in accordance with the contact preference and the reminder preference.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein said receiving means includes one of a telephone receiver, a facsimile receiver, a pager, or an electronic mail receiver.

27. The system of claim 25, wherein said receiving means includes a high frequency receiver.

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28. The system of claim 25, wherein said transmitting means includes one of a telephone transmitter, a facsimile transmitter, a pager, and an electronic mail transmitter.

29. The system of claim 25, wherein said transmitting means includes a high frequency transmitter.

30. A method for improving patient compliance to a therapeutic regimen, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an identifier for distribution to a patient in connection with the therapeutic regimen; and

(b) authorizing a reminder service to:

(i) monitor the extraction of a dose or the omission of the extraction of the dose through monitoring means; and

(ii) at a predetermined time after monitoring an omission of the extraction, reminding the patient of the therapeutic regimen in accordance with a contact preference and a reminder preference.

31. The method according to claim 30, wherein said authorizing step includes authorizing the reminder service to monitor by radio wave, microwave, magnetic impulse, electrical current, short wave, or long wave transmissions.

32. The method according to claim 30, wherein the therapeutic regimen is associated with a prescription medication and step (a) includes:

(i) obtaining, from a provider of the prescription medication, product information associated with the prescription medication;

(ii) assigning a code to the prescription medication associated with the product information; and

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(iii) validating the code and providing one of an accepted and rejected status to the provider of the prescription medication in response to a validation request.

33. The method according to claim 12, wherein said providing step includes providing an RFID transmitter.

34. The method according to claim 21, wherein said providing step comprises providing an RFID transmitter for distribution to the patient.

35. The method according to claim 24, wherein said notifying step comprises activating an RFID transmitter to notify the reminder service when the reminder service is not needed.

36. The system of claim 27, wherein said high frequency receiver includes an RFID receiver.

37. The system of claim 29, wherein said high frequency transmitter includes an RFID transmitter.

38. The method according to claim 30, wherein the therapeutic regimen is associated with a prescription medication and step (a) includes:

(i) producing the prescription medication and sending product information corresponding to the prescription medication to a clearing house;

(ii) receiving a code associated with the prescription medication from the clearing house;

(iii) packaging the prescription medication;

(iv) transmitting product information associated with the packaged prescription medication to the clearing house for validation; and

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(v) transferring the prescription medication and associated code to one of a wholesaler and a retailer for distribution to patients upon validation according to step (iv).